Drug Addiction Among Street Children

2668. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether a study funded by the United Nations under the Drugs Control Programme has shown an increase in the addiction habit among the street children of metropolitan cities of the country

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) A Study on Reducing Risk Behaviour relating to HIV/AIDs/STD and Drug Abuse amongst street children is being jointly supported by United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), UNICEF, WHO, UNAIDs, National Aids Control Organisation (NACO), Ministry of Health, Overseas Development Agency (ODA) and the Ministry of Welfare. The Study has been conducted in Four cities of the country viz. Mumbai, Calcutta, Delhi and Hyderabad. The Report has observed that drug abuse is wide spread and increasing amongst street children. Accessible and cheap drugs such as Solvents, Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis are mostly abused by these children. No firm statistics are available in the report as to the number of the street children addicted to drugs.

(c) Based upon the observations and recommendations made in the Study, City Level Workshops have been undertaken in Mumbai (4-5 Nov.'96), Calcutta (7-9 Nov.'96), Delhi (12-13 Nov.'96) and Hyderabad (3-4 December '96).

The objectives of the City Level Workshop is to undertake Pilot Projects for reducing risk taking behaviour related to Drug Abuse/HIV AIDs/STD amongst street children and prepare a City Level Action Plan for this purpose.

Arsenic Free Drinking Water

2669. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Japan Government have agreed to invest about Rs. 350 crore in a joint project with the Government of West Bengal to solve the problem of supplying arsenic free drinking water; and

(b) if so, the progress of implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) A project entitled "Emergency Water Supply in parts of arsenic affected areas of North-24 Parganas District" was proposed by the Government of West Bengal to the Japan International Corporation of Welfare Services Mission, Government of Japan to cover a population of 26 lakhs in 20 Zones by the year 2021. However, the Government of Japan has agreed in principle to finance a part of the project for 9 Zones covering a population of Rs. 8.226 lakhs in 4 blocks namely Habra 1 and 2 and Barasat 1 and 2 by the year 2006 with net demand of water of about 32.95 million litres a day at the cost of Rs. 157.14 crores. Steps have been initiated by the Government for finalisation of the agreement.

Chlorinated Pesticides

2670. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India is still manufacturing and using the most notorious chlorinated pesticide phased out in rest of the world; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Different countries ban/restrict or phase out the use of certain pesticides including Chlorinated Pesticides for different reasons such as negative health effects, non acceptability of such pesticides due to climatic conditions peculiar to a country, emergence of pest resistance to pesticides etc. In India import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of insecticides is regulated under Insecticides Act, 1968 and the rules made thereunder. The Registration Committee constituted under the Act register the pesticides after satisfying itself with regard to various parameters of chemistry, bio-efficacy, toxicity, residue, packaging, labeling etc. Insecticides Act, 1968 and the rules framed thereunder are adminstered by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Technology Mission on Oilseeds

2671. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Technology Mission was launched by the Government in the field of oilseeds;

(b) if so, the States where such technology mission was launched;

(c) the funds provided to State Government for the implementation of mission during the Eighth Plan, State-wise; and

(d) the achievement made in increasing the production of oilseeds after launching the technology mission, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.